

Message Text

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43

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 PA-04 L-03 SCI-06 USIA-15

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2228

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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FOR COMMISSIONER GENERAL HENDERSON FROM AMBASSADOR GOULD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SENV, SCUL, BIE, NL

SUBJECT: SPOKANE EXPO 74

REF: STATE 208008

1. DCM SPOKE TO FONOFF STATE SECRETARY BRINKHORST MORNING OF OCT 22 TO BRIEF HIM ON FRENCH BREAKTHROUGH (PARIS 27282) WHICH IN TURN BREATHED NEW LIFE INTO POSSIBLE FRG PARTICIPATION (BONN 15240). DCM ALSO MENTIONED NEW INITIATIVE OF HENDERSON WAS TAKING VIS-A-VIS UK (LONDON 12219). DCM EXPRESSED STRONG HOPE THAT IN VIEW OF THESE FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENTS GON WOULD BE PREPARED TO RECONSIDER ITS PARTICIPATION.

2. BRINKHORST REPLIED THAT HE WAS INDEED ENCOURAGED BY THESE DEV-
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ELOPMENTS, WHICH HE WOULD PASS ON TO OTHER SENIOR DUTCH OFFICIALS

CONCERNED WITH THE SPOKANE INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION. HE SAID IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE FIRM INDICATION OF NATURE OF FRENCH PARTICIPATION AND APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE GOING CONTEMPLATED. HE ADDED THAT PROBLEM FOR THOSE LIKE HIMSELF IN GON WHO WERE INTERESTED WOULD BE MADE EASIER IF THERE COULD BE SOME KIND OF EC PARTICIPATION. DCM SAID EMBASSY OFFICER WOULD PROVIDE FORMAL OFFICIAL HANDLING SPOKANE EXPOSITION WITH FURTHER DETAILS LATER THAT DAY AND BE RECEPTIVE TO ANY ADDITIONAL IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS DUTCH MIGHT HAVE. BRINKHORST SAID THIS WOULD BE FINE.

3. IN AFTERNOON CALL TO MFA DESK OFFICIAL HANDLING QUESTION (BUWALDA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CULTURAL COOP DIVISION) EMBOFF REVIEWED STATE OF PLAY AS OUTLINED STATE 206079 AND PARIS 27282 AND ADVISED BUWALDA OF EARLIER CALL TO BRINKHORST BY DCM TO CONVEY NEWS OF FRENCH DECISION.

4. BUWALDA RECALLED CALL BY DCM ON BRINKHORST SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, AT WHICH TIME, BUWALDA SAID, STATE SECRETARY HAD MADE KNOWN GON'S ESSENTIALLY NEGATIVE POSITION ON PARTICIPATION. POSITION (AS OUTLINED BY BUWALDA) WAS THAT NETHERLANDS WOULD NOT CONSIDER PARTICIPATION UNLESS OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES DECIDED TO DO SO, SPECIFICALLY THE OLD EC SIX OR THE NINE AND COUNTRIES SUCH AS SWEDEN AND SWITZERLAND.

5. EMBOFF QUERIED WHETHER DUTCH WOULD CONSIDER PARTICIPATION IN BENELUX CONTEXT SINCE EX-SPONSORED EXHIBIT NOT LIKELY TO MATERIALIZE. BUWALDA ASSERTED CATEGORICALLY THAT THIS WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION AND THAT DUTCH WOULD RECONSIDER ONLY UNDER CONDITIONS EARLIER STATED. DUTCH POSITION, HE SAID, IS BASED ON THEIR WANTING TO TAKE PART IN BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS IN US IN 1976, AND ISSUE, GIVEN THEIR RESOURCES, WAS EITHER SPOKANE IN 1974 OR PARTICIPATION IN 1976, AND THEY DON'T WANT JEOPARDIZE CHANCES FOR LATTER. BUWALDA ALSO STATED THAT THEIR ATTITUDE IS BASED ON ASSESSMENT THAT THERE IS NOTHING IN IT FOR DUTCH BY EXHIBITING IN "REMOTE" AREA OF THE US WITH WHICH THEY FEEL LITTLE AFFINITY. EMBOFF POINTED OUT MODEST RENTAL COST OF ABOUT \$35,000 FOR 4,000 SQUARE FEET OF EXHIBIT SPACE FOR SIX MONTHS, BUT BUWALDA COUNTERED BY SAYING THAT RENTAL COST WOULD BE ONLY SMALL PROPORTION OF EXPENSES THAT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO MOUNT AN EXHIBIT AND TRANSPORT IT AND PERSONNEL TO SUCH A DISTANT LOCATION. ADDITIONALLY, SAID LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUWALDA, DUTCH REALLY HAVE NOTHING TO SHOW.

6. EMBOFF SUGGESTED DUTCH MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING IN AREA OF WATER AND WATER POLLUTION-CONTROL WHICH COULD SERVE AS FOCUS FOR EXHIBIT, BUT BUWALDA DID NOT BITE. EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT SPANISH HAD BEEN SOLD ON BENEFITS OF EXHIBIT AFTER VISIT TO THE SITE AND SUGGESTED DUTCH CONSULAR OFFICIAL IN SAN FRANCISCO OR ELSEWHERE IN US COULD LIKEWISE VISIT SITE TO OBTAIN FIRST-HAND IMPRESSION, BUT

BUWALDA DISMISSED THAT POSSIBILITY GIVEN REASONS FOR DUTCH ATTITUDE.

7. COMMENT: BUWALDA'S FRANK AND TOTALLY NEGATIVE EXPOSITION OF DUTCH POSITION SEEMS TO CONTRAST MARKEDLY WITH BRINKHORST'S GUARD-EDLY HOPEFUL STANCE. HOWEVER, BUWALDA ADVISED EMBOFF THAT REPORT HE (BUWALDA) HAD RECEIVED FROM CABINET OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTER VORRINK ON OCCASION OF COMMISSIONER HENDERSON'S CALL SEVERAL WEEKS AGO (HAGUE 3364) WAS DECIDEDLY MORE NEGATIVE THAN IMPRESSION US OFFICIALS SEEM TO HAVE COME AWAY WITH. SPEAKING FRANKLY, BUWALDA ASSERTED THAT DUTCH POSITION LEAVES NO GROUND FOR OPTIMISM. IF BUWALDA'S READING OF FEELING WITHIN HEALTH MINISTRY IS ACCURATE, IT WOULD APPEAR FURTHER VISIT BY COMMISSIONER HENDERSON AND/OR PRESIDENT COLE AT THIS TIME WOULD NOT BE PRODUCTIVE. HOWEVER, COMMISSIONER HENDERSON MIGHT CONSIDER ADDRESSING PERSONAL NOTE TO MINISTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT, MRS. VORRINK, TO APPRISE HER OF DEVELOPMENTS AND EXPRESSING HOPE THAT BENEFITS TO ENVIRONMENTAL CAUSE WHICH WOULD BE SERVED BY DUTCH CONTRIBUTION TO EXPOSITION WILL PERSUADE GON TO PARTICIPATE. (AMBASSADOR ASKED TO PAY A COURTESY CALL ON HER BUT HER OFFICE RESPONDED WITH THE SAME LITANY, THAT THE MINISTER WAS NOT RPT NOT SEEING ANY AMBASSADORS UNTIL DEC AND TO CHECK BACK WITH HER OFFICE IN LATE NOVEMBER). MEANWHILE, WE ARE EXPLORING, THRU EMBASSY BRUSSELS, DESIRABILITY OF MULTI-COUNTRY PARTICIPATION UNDER CCMS AUSPICES. ADDITIONALLY, SINCE BUWALDA'S ENTIRELY NEGATIVE ATTITUDE, WHICH HE HAS DISPLAYED THROUGHOUT DISCUSSIONS ON THIS QUESTION CONTRASTS MARKEDLY WITH LESS RIGID REACTIONS OF HIS SENIORS IN MFA AND HEALTH MINISTRY, WE WILL BE DOING SOME FURTHER CHECKING TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER VIEWS BUWALDA HAS PUT FORTH ARE IN FACT SHARED AT HIGHER LEVELS, WHERE DECISION WOULD ULTIMATELY BE MADE. DCM IS SEEING BRINKHORST AT NOON ON OCT 24.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: DETAILS ON NATURE AND APPROXIMATE COST OF FRENCH PARTICIPATION, WHICH COULD BE HELPFUL IN CONVINCING THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THRIFTY DUTCH THAT THE FUNDS ENTAILED BY THEIR PARTICIPATION WOULD NOT CONSTITUTE A SERIOUS BUDGETARY PROBLEM, PARTICULARLY SINCE THEY COULD PROBABLY BE SECURED IN SMALL BITS FROM VARIOUS MINISTRY BUDGETS.
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